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ETD CONTRIBUTIONS IN SHODHGANGA: A STATUS REPORT OF UNIVERSITIES OF MAHARASHTRA (INDIA)

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ABSTRACT:

Theses and dissertations have always been one of the most important types of grey literature for the scholarly world. However, there has always been a debate on their accessibility issues. In majority of cases, the usage of these documents is limited only to the University Level. The submission of theses and dissertations in electronic format has increased the opportunity for the user community to have an access to the knowledge embedded in these works through various National & International E-Theses & Dissertations Repositories/ databases etc. In India, UGC Regulations 2009, made it mandatory for every doctoral researcher to submit his/ her thesis in electronic format to the University concerned which are then deposited in INFLIBNET's Shodhganga: a reservoir of Indian theses. The present study proposes to report the status of ETD contributions of Universities of Maharashtra.

KEYWORDS: *ETD, E-thesis Repositories, Shodhganga, INFLIBNET, Universities of Maharashtra, Open Access.*

1. INTRODUCTION:

Theses and dissertations are a unique form of document which contains hidden facts of qualitative research work sometimes containing facts completely unknown to the rest of the world. The print form of theses and dissertations limited their access only to the University/ department where it has been submitted for the award of the Degree. The UGC Notification (Minimum Standards & Procedure for Award of M.Phil. / Ph.D Degree, Regulation, 2009) dated 1st June 2009, revolutionized this system thereby making it mandatory for every researcher to submit a soft copy of their M.Phil/ Ph.D thesis to the University concerned which then submits it to the UGC for hosting the same in INFLIBNET, which will be accessible to all institutions/ universities.

2. SHODHGANGA:

The Shodhganga@INFLIBNET is set-up using open source digital repository software called DSpace which uses internationally recognized protocols and interoperability standards. Shodhganga provides a platform for research scholars of Indian Universities/ Institutions to deposit their Ph.D. theses and make it available to the entire scholarly

community in open access. The repository has the ability to capture, index, store, disseminate and preserve ETDs (Electronic Theses and Dissertations) submitted by the researchers. Till date (09/09/2015), 232 Universities across India have signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with INFLIBNET for contributing their theses at Shodhganga. More than 226 Universities have started contributing. 43000+ theses have already been uploaded in the repository. At present the top five contributing Universities of India are:

- a) Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), New Delhi : 4450+
- b) Gujarat University, Gujarat : 2924+
- c) Anna University, Tamil Nadu : 2836+
- d) Mahatma Gandhi University, Kerala : 2080+
- e) Bundelkhand University, Jhansi (Uttar Pradesh) : 1690+

Shodhganga received the eINDIA Jury Choice Award for Best ICT enabled Higher Education Institute of the year 2011.

Initially, Turnitin Anti-plagiarism software was used by the repository but 1st August 2015 onwards, INFLIBNET Centre has selected ‘Urkund’ Anti-Plagiarism Software (www.urbund.com) to be provided to the Universities who have signed MoU and are eligible for funding from UGC. Such institutions/ Universities will be getting the software free of cost from INFLIBNET Centre.

3. REVIEW OF LITERATURE:

Das & Saikia (2014) found out that out of the 16 Universities of Assam, only 03 have joined Shodhganga and the number of ETDs submitted by the 03 Universities is very poor. The paper concluded making a point that in spite of the status of the university (State/Central/Deemed), every university must deposit their ETD in Shodhganga. Similar kind of research was conducted by **Esh (2015)** regarding the ETD contributions made by the 09 Universities of West Bengal. There are 22 Universities in West Bengal, out of which only 05 Universities have signed MoU with INFLIBNET. Rest 04 Universities are contributing their ETDs without signing MoU with Shodhganga. The researcher found that only 228 ETDs are contributed by the Universities of West Bengal.

Both the researches prove that the status report of Universities contributing ETDs in Shodhganga is not satisfactory.

4. AIMS & OBJECTIVES:

1. To find out the state wise number of universities contributing ETDs in Shodhganga.
2. To prepare a list of various types of Universities in Maharashtra and to find out their status of MoU with Shodhganga.
3. To find out the University in Maharashtra having maximum number of ETD contributions in the repository.
4. To enlist the subject wise contribution of ETDs of Universities in Maharashtra.

5. FINDINGS & INTERPRETATIONS:

1) State wise number of universities contributing ETDs in Shodhganga

Sr.No.	State	Universities Contributing in Shodhganga
1	Andhra Pradesh	13
2	Assam	06
3	Bihar	01
4	Chattisgarh	03
5	New Delhi	10
6	Goa	01
7	Gujarat	17
8	Haryana	07
9	Himachal Pradesh	08
10	Jammu & Kashmir	03
11	Jharkhand	01
12	Karnataka	21
13	Kerala	07
14	Madhya Pradesh	08
15	Maharashtra	25
16	Manipur	01
17	Meghalaya	01
18	Mizoram	01
19	Nagaland	01
20	Odisha	04
21	Punjab	08
22	Pondicherry	01
23	Rajasthan	19
24	Sikkim	01
25	Tamil Nadu	34
26	Tripura	01
27	Uttar Pradesh	19

28	Uttarakhand	04
29	West Bengal	06
	TOTAL	232

Table 1: State-wise List of Universities who has signed MoU with INFLIBNET Centre, Ahmedabad for Shodhganga.

As mentioned in Table 1, Tamil Nadu ranks first with highest number of universities i.e. 34 Universities contributing their theses in Shodhganga. Maharashtra ranks second with 25 universities contributing their doctoral research work in the repository, Karnataka ranks third with contribution from 21 universities; Rajasthan & Uttar Pradesh shares the third position with 19 Universities contributing their theses to the repository.

2) Types of Universities in Maharashtra and their MoU status with Shodhganga

In order to prepare a full-fledged list of types of Universities in Maharashtra, the researcher accessed the ‘Know Your College (KYC)’ Portal (<http://www.knowyourcollege.gov.in/>) of Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India, which provides complete information about courses, intake capacity, laboratory facilities, library, hostel facilities in colleges/institutes/universities all over India.

As per the information available in KYC Portal, Maharashtra has-

- State Public Universities : 19
- State Open University : 01
- Central University : 01

- Deemed University (Government) : 07
- Deemed University (Government Aided) : 03
- Deemed University (Private) : 11
- Institute of National Importance : 03

(Source: <http://www.knowyourcollege-gov.in/nonTechUniversityList.php>)

Sr.No.	University Name	Established	Specialisation	MoU with Shodhganga Signed on
STATE PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES				
1	Dr.Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University, Aurangabad	1958	General	12.8.2013
2	Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Technological University, Lonere	1989	Technology	26.9.2013
3	Dr. Balasaheb Sawant Konkan Krishi Vidyapeeth,(Former Konkan Krishi Vidyapeeth) Ratnagiri	1972	Agriculture	21.9.2012
4	Dr. Punjabrao Deshmukh Krishi Vidyapeeth, Akola	1969	Agriculture	NO
5	Gondwana University, Gadchiroli	2011	General	NO
6	Kavi Kulguru Kalidas Sanskrit Vishwavidyalaya, Ramtek	1997	Sanskrit	NO
7	Maharashtra Animal & Fishery Sciences University, Nagpur	2000	Veterinary & Fishery Sciences	NO

8	Maharashtra University of Health Sciences, Nashik	1998	Healthcare	NO
9	Mahatma Phule Krishi Vidyapeeth, Rahuri	1968	Agriculture	NO
10	Marathwada Agricultural University, Parbhani	1972	Agriculture	NO
11	Mumbai University, Mumbai	1857	General	28.1.2015
12	North Maharashtra University, Jalgaon	1990	General	10.4.2014
13	Rashtrasant Tukadoji Maharaj Nagpur University, Nagpur	1923	General	NO
14	Sant Gadge Baba Amravati University, Amravati	1983	General	9.10.2012
15	Savitribai Phule Pune University, Pune	1949	General	27.4.2011
16	Shivaji University, Kolhapur	1962	General	26.9.2011
17	Smt. Nathibai Damodar Thackersey Womens Univeristy, Mumbai	1916 (1951*)	General	28.8.2012
18	Solapur University, Solapur	2004	General	24.3.2015
19	Swami Ramanand Teerth Marathwada University, Nanded	1994	General	07.8.2013
STATE OPEN UNIVERSITY				
20	Yashwant Rao Chavan Maharashtra Open University, Nasik	1989	Distance Education	28.1.2015
CENTRAL UNIVERSITY				
21	Mahatama Gandhi Antarrashtriya Hindi Vishwavidyalaya, Wardha	1997	Hindi	9.10.2012
DEEMED UNIVERSITY-GOVERNMENT				
22	Central Institute of Fisheries Education, Fisheries University, Mumbai	1961 (1989*)	Fisheries Science	NO
23	Defence Institute of Advanced	1952 (2006*)	Arms	11.7.2013

	Technology, Girinagar, Pune		Technology	
24	Homi Bhabha National Institute Knowledge Management Group, Mumbai	2005	Science, Technology	05.1.2015
25	Indira Gandhi Institute Of Development Research, Mumbai	1987 (1995*)	Economics	NO
26	Institute of Chemical Technology, Mumbai	1933 (2008*)	Chemical Engineering	20.11.2010
27	International Institute For Population Sciences, Mumbai	1956 (1985*)	Population Studies	25.10.2013
28	Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Mumbai	1945 (2002*)	Pure Sciences	NO
DEEMED UNIVERSITY-GOVERNMENT AIDED				
29	Gokhale Institute of Politics & Economics, Pune	1930 (1993*)	Economics	NO
30	Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai	1936 (1964*)	Social Sciences	09.3.2011
31	Tilak Maharashtra Vidyapeeth, Pune	1921 (1987*)	General	20.7.2011
DEEMED UNIVERSITY-PRIVATE				
32	Bharati Vidyapeeth, Pune	1964 (1996*)	General	NO
33	D.Y. Patil Educational Society, Kolhapur	1987 (2005*)	Medicine	02.7.2014
34	Datta Meghe Institute of Medical Sciences, Nagpur	1950 (2005*)	Medicine	NO
35	Deccan College Postgraduate & Research Institute, Pune	1821 (1994*)	Archaeology	11.2.2014
36	Dr. D.Y.Patil Vidyapeeth, Pune	1996 (2003*)	Medicine	NO
37	Krishna Institute of Medical Sciences Deemed University, Karad	1982 (2005*)	Medicine	24.1.2013
38	MGM Institute of Health Sciences, Navi Mumbai	1982 (2006*)	Healthcare	NO
39	Narsee Monjee Institute of	1981 (2003*)	Business	21.4.2012

	Management Studies, Mumbai		Management	
40	Padmashree Dr. D. Y. Patil Vidyapeeth, , Mumbai	2002	General	NO
41	Pravara Institute of Medical Sciences, Ahmednagar	1976 (2003*)	Medicine	01.6.2015
42	Symbiosis International University, Pune	1971 (2002*)	General	03.5.2013
INSTITUTE OF NATIONAL IMPORTANCE				
43	Indian Institute of Science Education & Research (IISER), Pune	2006 (2012 [§])	Pure Science	NO
44	Indian Institute of Technology(IIT), Mumbai	1961	Technology	NO
45	Visvesvaraya National Institute of Technology, Nagpur	2002	Technology	NO

* granted university/ deemed university status

§ declared as an Institute of National Importance by an Act of Parliament

Table 2: List of various Universities in Maharashtra and their MoU Status with Shodhganga

(Source: <http://shodhganga.inflibnet.ac.in/>)

The above table shows that out of the 45 different types of Universities, only 50% of the Universities have signed MoU with Shodhganga@INFLIBNET. Heritage University like University of Mumbai which was established in 1857 signed MoU at a very recent period. Several Universities which specialize in a specific subject area have not yet joined Shodhganga.

3) To find out which University in Maharashtra has the maximum number of

ETD contributions in Shodhganga

Sr.No.	University Name	No. of ETD Contributions	University Co-ordinator
1.	Shivaji University, Kolhapur	412	Yes
2.	Sant Gadge Baba Amravati University	312	Yes
3.	Savitribai Phule Pune University, Pune	290	Yes
4.	Tilak Maharashtra Vidyapeeth, Pune	270	Yes
5.	Homi Bhabha National Institute, Mumbai	245	-----
6.	Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai	201	Yes
7.	SNDT Women's University, Mumbai	133	Yes
8.	North Maharashtra University, Jalgaon	76	Yes
9.	Dr.Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University, Aurangabad	59	Yes
10.	Symbiosis International University, Pune	55	Yes
11.	Institute of Chemical Technology, Mumbai	37	-----
12.	Narsee Monjee Institute of Management Studies, Mumbai	36	Yes
13.	Deccan College Post Graduate and Research Institute, Pune	23	Yes
14.	Mahatma Gandhi Antarrashtriya Vishwavidyalaya, Wardha	22	Yes
15.	D.Y.Patil University	19	-----
16.	Dr.Babasaheb Ambedkar Technological University, Lonere	06	-----

17.	Krishna Institute of Medical Sciences University, Karad	01	Yes
18.	Swami Ramanand Teerth Marathwada University, Nanded	01	Yes
19.	University of Mumbai	01	-----
	TOTAL	2199	

Table 3: ETD contributions by Universities in Maharashtra in Shodhganga

Table 2 shows that out of the 45 Universities, 25 universities have signed MoU with Shodhganga for contributing their ETDs in the repository. However, Table 3 shows that only 19 of the 25 universities have contributed their ETDs in Shodhganga.

Nineteen (19) universities from Maharashtra have contributed 2199 ETDs till date in the repository. Shivaji University, Kolhapur ranks first with 412 ETDs, followed by Sant Gadge Baba Amravati University (312) and Savitribai Phule Pune University (290).

4) Subject wise contribution of ETDs by Universities in Maharashtra:

Sr.No.	University Name	Department	No. of ETDs contributed
1	Shivaji University, Kolhapur	Agrochemicals & Pest Management	06
		Applied Chemistry	00
		Biochemistry	11
		Biotechnology	09
		Botany	27
		Chemistry	44
		Commerce & Management	42
		Computer Science	06
		Economics	26
		Education	16
		Electronics	07

		English	31
		Geography	19
		Hindi	13
		History	10
		Law	03
		Marathi	26
		Mathematics	05
		Microbiology	05
		Pharmacy	11
		Physical Education	02
		Physics	41
		Political Science	05
		Sociology	09
		Statistics	05
		Textile Engineering	00
		Zoology	16
		Engineering & Technology	17
		Library & Information Science	00
2	Sant Gadge Baba Amravati University	Biotechnology	08
		Botany	16
		Business Administration & Management	03
		Chemistry	29
		Commerce	19
		Computer Science	05
		Education	20
		Engineering & Technology	25
		English	16
		Geography	02
		Hindi	03
		History	02
		Home Science	24
		Law	06
		Library & Information	06

		Science	
		Marathi	10
		Mathematics	13
		Medicine	05
		Microbiology	13
		Physical Education	08
		Physics	11
		Political science	01
		Psychology	03
		Social Science	14
		Statistics	12
		Urdu	04
		Zoology	35
3	Savitribai Phule Pune University, Pune	Biological Sciences-Agharkar Research Institute	03
		Biochemical Sciences Division, NCL Pune	04
		B.M.College of Commerce	01
		Centre for Educational Studies	01
		Centre for Studies in Rural Development	01
		Chemical Engineering	01
		Anthropology	04
		Biotechnology	19
		Botany	08
		Chemistry	12
		Commerce	13
		Communication & Journalism	01
		Computer Science & IT	01
		Defense & Strategic Studies	03
		Economics	14
		Education	20

	Electronic Science	00
	English	06
	Environmental Science	01
	Fine Arts	02
	Geography	01
	Hindi	02
	History	01
	Library & Information Science	06
	Management Science	09
	Marathi	08
	Mathematics	08
	Molecular Virology	01
	Philosophy	04
	Physics	04
	Politics & Public Administration	09
	Psychology	03
	Sanskrit & Prakrit Languages	05
	Science	02
	Zoology	02
	Biochemical Sciences, NCL	07
	Organic Chemistry	02
	Advanced Studies in English	08
	Institute of Genomics & Integrative Biology	18
	Institute of Management Research & Technology	02
	Interdisciplinary School of Scientific Computing	01
	MSG College, Malegaon	02
	National Centre for Cell Science	21

		NCL	20
		National Institute of Virology- Virus Research	05
		National Insurance Academy	03
		Plant Tissue Culture, NCL	05
		Cost Management Studies & Research	07
		Energy Studies	00
		Management	07
		Tissue Engineering	01
4	Tilak Maharashtra Vidyapeeth	Ayurveda	22
		Economics	41
		Education	03
		English	04
		Geography	24
		Hindi	06
		History	41
		Journalism	05
		Library & Information Science	07
		Marathi	03
		Philosophy	04
		Political Science	13
		Social Sciences	12
		Sociology	09
		Management	54
		Modern Sciences & Professional Skills	04
		Social Sciences	01
		Sanskrit & Indological Studies	17
5.	Homi Bhabha National Institute, Mumbai	Chemical Sciences	59
		Engineering Sciences	21
		Health Sciences	01

		Life Sciences	22
		Mathematical Sciences	23
		Physical Sciences	119
6.	Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai	Centre for Lifelong Learning	01
		Health Systems Studies	01
		Management & Labour Studies	16
		Rural Development	01
		Social Sciences	110
		Social Work	72
7.	SNDT Women's University, Mumbai	Pharmacy	12
		Commerce	12
		Computer Science	01
		Drawing & Painting	02
		Economics	11
		Education	17
		English	04
		Food Science & Nutrition	01
		Geography	03
		Gujarati	03
		Hindi	06
		History	03
		Human Development	03
		Management	01
		Marathi	01
		Music	02
		Nursing	02
		Psychology	10
		Sociology	03
		Special Education	01
		Textile Science & Apparel design	01
		Management Studies	22
		Library & Information Sci	08

		Technology	04
8.	North Maharashtra University, Jalgaon	Biochemistry	01
		Biotechnology	05
		Botany	03
		Chemical Engineering	01
		Chemical Science	03
		Chemical Technology	01
		Chemistry	17
		Comparative Languages & Lit.	01
		Computer Science	04
		Electronics	01
		Environmental Science	01
		Geography	05
		Management	06
		Mathematics	03
		Microbiology	02
		Organic Chemistry	02
		Pharmaceutical Science	04
		Physical Chemistry	06
		Physics	05
		Zoology	05
9.	Dr.Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University, Aurangabad	Botany	02
		Chemistry	05
		Commerce	03
		Computer Science & IT	01
		Economics	06
		English	04
		Environmental Science	02
		Foster Development	01
		Geography	01
		Hindi	04
		History	01
		Law	01
		Marathi	03
		Mathematics	02
		Pharmacy	02

		Physics	07
		Political Science	03
		Sociology	01
		Statistics	01
		Zoology	09
10.	Symbiosis International University, Pune	Computer Studies	09
		Engineering	02
		Health & Biomedical Sci.	02
		Law	05
		Management	36
		Media, Communication & Design	01
11.	Institute of Chemical Technology, Mumbai	Chemical Engineering	13
		Chemistry	11
		Fibres & Textile Processing Technology	01
		Food Engineering & Technology	02
		Pharmaceutical Sciences	08
		Polymer & Surface Engineering	02
12.	Narsee Monjee Institute of Management Studies, Mumbai	Biological Sciences	01
		Chemical Sciences	01
		Computer Engineering	09
		Electronic Engineering	02
		Electronic & Telecommunication Engineering	04
		Finance	01
		Human Resource	02
		Information Technology	02
		Pharmacy	09
		Technology Management	05
13.	Deccan College Post Graduate & Research	AIHC & Archaeology	22
		Linguistics	01

	Institute, Pune		
14.	Mahatma Gandhi Antarrashtriya Hindi Vishwavidyalaya, Wardha	Communication & Media Studies	01
		Language Technology	03
		Literature	01
		Non-violence & Peace Studies	08
		Translation Technology	09
15.	D.Y.Patil University	Biochemistry	01
		Chemistry	01
		Microbiology	02
		Physics	01
		Interdisciplinary Studies	05
		Management	05
		Medicine	03
		Physiotherapy	01
16.	Dr.Babasaheb Ambedkar Technological University, Lonere	Chemical Engineering	03
		Electronics & Telecommunication Engineering	01
		Mathematics	01
		Mechanical Engineering	01
17.	Krishna Institute of Medical Sciences University, Karad	Pediatrics	01
18.	Swami Ramanand Teerth Marathwada University, Nanded	Commerce	01
19.	University of Mumbai, Mumbai	Zoology	01
	TOTAL		2199

Table 4: University-wise contribution of ETDs in Shodhganga

Table 4 presents the university wise contribution of ETDs of various departments in Shodhganga. It is found that not all departments of the university are contributing ETDs in

Shodhganga. Although universities have signed MoU with INFLIBNET, but the submission rate of ETDs is very poor.

4.1 Subject wise distribution of ETDs

Sr.No.	Subject	No. of ETDs
1.	Physics	188
2.	Chemistry	186
3.	Business Administration & Management	159
4.	Social Sciences	137
5.	Engineering	100
6.	Economics	98
7.	Education	78
8.	Education	76
9.	English	73
10.	Social Work	72
11.	Zoology	68
12.	Botany	61
13.	History	58
14.	Mathematics	55
15.	Geography	55
16.	Marathi	51
17.	Commerce	49
18.	Pharmacy	46
19.	Biotechnology	41
20.	Hindi	34
21.	Politics & Public Administration	31
22.	Computer Science	30
23.	Library & Information Science	27
24.	Home Science	24
25.	Biochemistry	24
26.	Sociology	22

27.	Sanskrit & Prakrit Languages	22
28.	Microbiology	22
29.	Life Sciences	22
30.	Biological Sciences	22
31.	Ayurveda	22
32.	AIHC & Archaeology	22
33.	Cell Science	21
34.	Statistics	18
35.	Psychology	16
36.	Law	15
37.	Electronics & Telecommunication	13
38.	Physical Education	10
39.	Translation Technology	9
40.	Technology	9
41.	Philosophy	8
42.	Non-violence & Peace Studies	8
43.	Medicine	8
44.	Communication, Journalism & Media Studies	8
45.	Cost Management Studies	7
46.	Molecular Virology	6
47.	Languages & Literature	6
48.	Agrochemicals & Pest Management	6
49.	Interdisciplinary Studies	5
50.	Human Resource & Development	5
51.	Urdu	4
52.	Health Sciences	4
53.	Environmental Science	4
54.	Anthropology	4
55.	Insurance	3
56.	Gujarati	3
57.	Defense & Strategic Studies	3
58.	Science	2
59.	Rural Development	2
60.	Nursing	2
61.	Music	2

62.	Fine Arts	2
63.	Drawing & Painting	2
64.	Textile Science	1
65.	Special Education	1
66.	Physiotherapy	1
67.	Pediatrics	1
68.	Foster Development	1
69.	Food Science & Nutrition	1
70.	Finance	1
	Total	2199

Table 4.1: Subject wise Distribution of ETDs

Table 4.1 provides the subject wise distribution of ETDs. The researcher found that ETDs of 70 different subjects are available in the repository. From the contribution of various departments of Universities in Maharashtra, it was found that Physics ranks highest with 188 ETDs, followed by Chemistry (186) and Business Administration & Management (159). From the data available, it can be interpreted that not all research work submitted in the University is deposited in Shodhganga. More than 50% of the subjects have very poor availability of ETDs in the repository.

Taking into consideration the ETD contributions of the top 05 Universities of India in Shodhganga, it can be seen that the total contribution of 19 Universities of Maharashtra is far less than the individual contributions of JNU (New Delhi), Gujarat University & Anna University.

According to the researcher, present situation of ETD contributions by Maharashtra may be due to the following factors:

- Lack of awareness of benefits of Open Access & ETDs
- Lack of skilled personnel
- Budgetary constraints
- Fear of plagiarism

6. SUGGESTIONS:

- 1) There should be a University Co-ordinator appointed by each University, who will be in-charge of forwarding the submission of ETDs to INFLIBNET. At present, out of the 19 contributing Universities, 05 Universities have not appointed any University Co-ordinator.
- 2) Special Awareness Programmes/ Workshops should be arranged by the university for the faculty members, explaining them the benefits of open access, copyright issues, and techniques to tackle plagiarism.
- 3) Although UGC Regulations 2009, makes it mandatory for every researcher to submit his/her research work in electronic format, but stringent rules should be made further by UGC & INFLIBNET in order to facilitate regular submission of the ETDs by the Universities in the repository.
- 4) Universities should collaborate with INFLIBNET in organizing awareness workshops related to ETDs, people should be made aware regarding their personal and institutional benefits.

- 5) Along with the current theses and dissertations, Universities should take digitization projects regarding the old theses and dissertations, so that even they can be deposited in Shodhganga.
- 6) Lack of staff and budgetary constraints may be some of the reasons for the unsatisfactory submission of ETDs by the Universities. Special provision of staff and budget should be made by the Universities/ Institutions and the State Government at large in order to facilitate proper functioning of the repository unit.

7. CONCLUSION:

Shodhganga@INFLIBNET is a boon for the research community since through open access it brings into light the hidden knowledge contained in the theses and dissertations. It is the only E-thesis repository in India providing open access to ETDs in various disciplines from across the nation. Shodhganga facilitates quick retrieval of information and helps in avoiding duplication of research work. It also helps the researcher to understand various research jargons, how to formulate research work, steps in formulating research in a particular area etc. ETDs become a unique source at times by providing valuable information. Awareness programmes must be arranged and mandatory rules should be made by the Universities in order to ensure regular deposition of ETDs in Shodhganga. More and more Universities must take advantage of this repository in order to showcase the quality and quantity of research in their jurisdiction.

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